

Press release
4 December 2017

Almost 30 countries and 50 sites The world congratulates the 100-year-old Finland by lighting up in blue and white

Finland's 100 years of independence is celebrated this week with blue-and-white light shows across Finland and in almost 30 countries around the world. The excitement has been gathering pace up to the last minute, and 50 iconic venues and buildings across the globe will be illuminated with blue and white lights in honour of Finland's centenary of independence.

The centenary of Finland's independence culminates on Finland's Independence Day, 6 December 2017. It is the most significant commemorative year for this generation of Finns. The Finns' enthusiasm to mark the country's 100th birthday with blue-and-white light shows has also spread across the world. Over the next few days, there will be blue-and-white light shows at 50 sites in a total of almost 30 countries. News about new venues for the light shows has been coming in up to the last minute.

The sites include the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro and the Niagara Falls in Canada, as well as many other spectacular sites that will be covered in blue-and-white lighting in honour of Finland.

"Finland has received numerous accolades and gifts from around the world this year. Now, the world will turn blue and white for a short time. This is a great moment for Finns and friends of Finland," says **Pekka Timonen**, General Secretary of the Centenary of Finland's Independence, Prime Minister's Office.

Finland 100 and the network of Finnish embassies have collaborated with partners in a number of countries to ensure that Finland's big moment will be visible around the world. Yle, the Finnish Broadcasting Company, will air the unforgettable moments from the illuminated venues on TV, stream them online on Yle Areena, and post them on social media, starting on 5 December, the eve of Independence Day.

Finland's centenary has become the richest and most versatile anniversary or theme year of all time in Finland. The centenary programme, with more than 5,000 projects has spread to more than 100 countries on all the continents. The open programme, its magnitude and the way the projects are carried out are unique even on an international scale.

Sites to be illuminated (as 3 December 2017, changes are possible)

Country, city	Site to be illuminated
Argentina, Buenos Aires	The Usina del Arte cultural centre
Australia, Adelaide	Adelaide Town Hall
Australia, Brisbane	Story Bridge and Victoria Bridge
Australia, Canberra	Telstra Tower, the Old Parliament House, Malcolm Fraser Bridge, Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre(Parkes)
Australia, Hobart	Railway Roundabout Fountain, Elizabeth Street Mall and the Kennedy Lane Tourism Precinct
Australia, Perth	The Council House building and Trafalgar Bridge
Austria, Vienna	The Wiener Riesenrad Ferris wheel

Brazil, Rio de Janeiro	The Christ the Redeemer statue
Bulgaria, Sofia	The National Palace of Culture
Canada	Niagara Falls
Cyprus, Nicosia	The White Walls building
Czech Republic, Prague	The Dancing House designed by Frank Gehry
Estonia, Tallinn	Stenbock House (The seat of the Government)
Estonia, Tartu	The Vanemuine Theatre, Võidu sild Bridge, Kaarsild Bridge
Ethiopia, Addis Ababa	Lion of Judah monument in front of the Ethiopian National Theatre
Greece, Athens	The Arch of Hadrian
Hungary, Budapest	Elizabeth Bridge
Iceland, Reykjavik	Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Centre
Ireland, Dublin	Mansion House, the residence of the Lord Mayor of Dublin
Italy, Rome	The Colosseum
Kazakhstan, Astana	The bridges across the Ishim River, St. Regis hotel
Latvia, Jelgava	Railway Bridge
Latvia, Riga	The Tower of the Town Hall in the Old Town, the Railway Bridge across the Daugava river
Mexico, Mexico City	The Angel of Independence monument (Ángel de la Independencia)
Mozambique, Maputo	Maputo Fortress
Netherlands, Alkmaar	Stadskantine Alkmaar
Norway, Oslo	Holmenkollen ski jumping hill
Poland, Warsaw	The Palace of Culture and Science
Portugal, Lisbon	Belém Tower (a UNESCO World Heritage Site)
Russia, Lumivaara	Lumivaara Church
Russia, Moscow	The Embassy of Finland
Russia, Petrozavodsk	The National Theatre
Russia, Saint Petersburg	The Museum of Ethnography
Serbia, Belgrade	Ada Bridge, Palace Albania
Sweden, Stockholm	Globen
Switzerland, Montreux	The Mannerheim memorial
Ukraine, Kiev	The Embassy of Finland
United Kingdom, Newcastle	The Gateshead Millennium Bridge

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Information on the program: <http://suomifinland100.fi/congratulations-to-the-100-year-old-finland/?lang=en>

Finland 100 in social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#)
#congratsfinland #finland100

Further information and material for the media: <http://suomifinland100.fi/media/?lang=en>

Finland 100 Years. *The year 2017 will mark Finland's 100th anniversary as an independent state. It is the most important anniversary year of this generation and will be celebrated throughout 2017 all over Finland. The theme selected for the centenary year is 'Together'. Responsibility for the preparations and coordination of the centenary year rests with Finland 100 set up by the Prime Minister's Office, assisted by the Project Secretariat and the regional network in the counties. suomifinland100.fi, #suomi100, #finland100*